Board of Trustees
May 7, 2020
Meetings held via Zoom
Meeting Minutes
(Draft for Approval)

In Attendance: Trustees: Chair Joseph Morone, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Kassandra Ardinger, Amy Begg, Don Birx, Todd Black, Jim Dean, Jackie Eastwood, Frank Edelblut, Cathy Green, Cailee Griffin, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Todd Leach, Scott Mason, Mike Pilot, Chris Pope, Mark Rubinstein, Morgan Rutman, Joseph Scala, Marjorie Smith, Wally Stevens, Melinda Treadwell, David Westover.

Call to Order: At 4:00 pm, Chair Morone called the morning session to order, had the attendance taken by roll call, and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Determination of Conditions Necessary for the Conduct of a Telephonic Meeting: Chair Morone made the following findings and declaration, sufficient for conducting a telephonic meeting and counting all members toward the quorum requirement whether or not physically present in the meeting location:

Under the NH Right to Know Law, RSA 91-a:2, III (b), a governmental body such as this Board of Trustees is authorized to meet by conference call when “immediate action is imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period of time requiring action.” In consultation with USNH General Counsel, it is my determination that a meeting by conference call is justified considering the following facts:

• The individual members of this Board live and work in locations remote to any single meeting place;

• The Governor’s declaration of emergency and Executive Order 2020-04, dated March 13, 2020, permits and encourages governmental bodies to conduct public meetings on an emergency basis using telephonic communications;

• Given the members’ various professional and personal schedules it is not reasonably practical to gather a quorum of the Board members in a single place for a physical meeting;

• The interests of USNH, its students, faculty, and staff, and the State of New Hampshire will be best served by Board’s expeditious consideration of and decision on the matter presented; and
• The notice of the meeting was posted and members of the public are permitted to observe and listen to the proceedings at the Board Room at the System Office at 5 Chenell Drive in Concord, NH.

Nonpublic Session

On motion made by Trustee Eastwood and seconded by Trustee Burnett, a roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously to go into nonpublic session at 4:10 pm

VOTED, that the Board of Trustees go into nonpublic session for the purposes of (1) discussing personnel matters including the performance of one or more public employees, (2) confidential, commercial, or financial information, (3) matters of market strategy which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are contrary to those of the general public, (4) discussing preliminary planning for the safety and security of future operations; (5) matters likely to affect collective bargaining strategy, and (6) consultation with legal counsel as authorized by RSA 91-A:2, I (a) and (b); 91-A:3, II (a); and 91-A:5, IV.

Return to Public Session: At 6:05 pm, on motion duly moved and seconded, the Board voted to return to public session. Chair Morone announced that while in nonpublic session, no votes were taken and no decisions were made.

Adjournment: At 6:10 pm, on motion duly moved and seconded, Chair Morone adjourned the meeting of the Board of Trustees. The next regularly scheduled Board and committee meetings will be held on June 25-26, 2020, at Granite State College, Concord, New Hampshire.